



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GRETHER
DIRECTOR

October 14, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. JoLisa McDay, Supervisor
Water Treatment Plant
City of Flint
4500 Dort Highway
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Ms. McDay:

Recent communication indicated that you instructed your staff to begin reducing the free chlorine residual target at the water treatment plant tap. While you have since rescinded that instruction, the purpose of this letter is to re-emphasize the importance of maintaining adequate disinfectant residuals in the City of Flint (City) Public Water Supply (PWS). This concern has been expressed previously by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Assuring public health protection by disinfection is one of the most important responsibilities of any PWS.

We are pleased that the City has engaged a consultant to complete a distribution system optimization study. Among other things, the study will make recommendations for the maintenance of adequate distribution system phosphate and disinfection residuals by establishing locations and operating plans for chemical feed, and by providing a distribution system water quality monitoring plan. Until those plans are in place, please consult with the DEQ before making adjustments in the target residuals for free chlorine or phosphate.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these matters. The DEQ continues to be a full partner in addressing these concerns with its primary focus on ensuring safe drinking water system for the people of Flint.

Sincerely,

Bryce Feighner, P.E., Chief
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517-284-6544

cc: Mayor Karen Weaver, City of Flint
Brigadier General (Ret.) Mike McDaniel, City of Flint
Mr. Robert Bincsik, City of Flint
Mr. Sylvester Jones, City of Flint
Mr. Robert Kaplan, USEPA
Mr. Rich Baird, Governor's Office
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director, DNR
Ms. C. Heidi Grether, Director, DEQ
Mr. Robert Wagner, Program Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. George Krisztian, DEQ
Mr. Richard Benzie, DEQ